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a full third of these will not be unfamiliar. Private conversations with many specialists are particularly acknowledged in the sources, and many valuable suggestions. The style is clear, but never eloquent; the many individual instances, unimportant in themselves, used in developing points make for vividness but sometimes destroy perspective. The charts and maps are singularly well chosen, but the index is quite inadequate to a work of reference, neglecting as it does the names of many persons mentioned in the book.

The reader carries away the impression of a wise and careful scholar with whom no traditional judgment can pass without investigation and to whom nothing that is American is foreign. He has enlarged our field of vision, though he has not changed our point of view. If in each generation some single veteran scholar should take stock of what is going forward in the historical study of the United States, Professor Channing should be warmly thanked for his service to our own.

DIXON RYAN FOX.

Captains of the Civil War: a Chronicle of the Blue and the Gray.

By WILLIAM WOOD. [Chronicles of America series, vol. XXXI.]

(New Haven: Yale University Press. 1921. Pp. xiv, 424.)

COLONEL WOOD has written a very readable and interesting book. He has chosen to emphasize the picturesque to the necessary exclusion of more detailed discussion of important events. The emphasis on the extent and value of the work of the Federal navy is particularly interesting, though, in places, too detailed for such a study.

The first part of the book is devoted to a rather extended and, in places, detailed discussion of the opening events of the war and of the opposing combatants. Of the make-up of the armies Colonel Wood says that "... when the froth had been blown off the top, and the dregs drained out of the bottom, the solid mass between, who really were sound patriots, settled down to work". It was "the froth . . . and the dregs"—the "fustian heroes"—who "formed the mushroom secret societies that played their vile extravaganza right under the shadow of the real tragedy of war" and that caused the "patriots" many an anxious and uncertain hour. After this introduction the opening operations of the navy are discussed, including the taking of New Orleans. There are two interesting chapters on the "River Wars" of 1862 and 1863, in which Grant and Farragut are the heroes. A chapter on Lincoln: War Statesman, though well and sympathetically done, seems superfluous in view of the fact that the subject is well done elsewhere in this series. The important part of the material might well have been worked into the different chapters. The space could certainly be filled to advantage with a more extended narrative of military and naval events.

Except for a chapter on Lee and Jackson, 1862-1863, and one on Gettysburg, making together less than one-fourth of the book, the author follows

Grant and Farragut from place to place and, with few exceptions, only events in which they are the principal actors are given detailed or extended consideration. This method makes possible only cursory mention of the operations and leadership in the so-called Western theatre. The battle of Shiloh, though important as being the first pitched battle in this area, is, like the first Bull Run, given in too much detail. Bragg's Kentucky campaign and the Chickamauga campaign receive only passing mention. Johnston's masterly retreat to Atlanta in the face of Sherman's superior forces is sandwiched into the narrative of Grant's operations before Richmond in 1864 and its importance from the political, economic, and military standpoints is lost sight of. Hood's Tennessee Campaign of the winter of 1864 receives none of the discussion that this last desperate thrust deserves, considering its ultimate possibilities in case of success. As Colonel Wood has said of Rosecrans, Hood, "like many another man who succeeds halfway up, failed at the top".

This neglect of the Western area is characteristic of most military writers of the Civil War period. The Western armies, though comparable in quality of personnel, were not as well led as were the armies in Virginia and at no time, unless we except Joseph E. Johnston, did the Western armies have a leader who was loved, trusted, and respected as was Robert E. Lee. In fact the ascendancy of Lee and Virginia has, until recently, obscured these important operations conducted in the granary of the Confederacy. They took place in a much larger and more physically difficult area than Virginia and one not as well served with railroads. On the other hand, the many navigable rivers were a source of strength to both combatants and, in the case of Chattanooga in the fall of 1863, the accessibility of the Tennessee River prevented the Federal army from being starved out or forced to retreat northwards.

In this altogether readable and interesting book we note several errors of statement, but limitations of space forbid detailed correction of all. For examples: it is exaggeration to speak of Twiggs's surrender as "the greatest of all surrenders" (p. 8) when the statement is made without qualification; Lee was not "Scott's Chief of Staff in Mexico", but only an engineer officer on his staff (p. 9); several exceptions must be made to the statement that West Point furnished "every successful high commander", as, for example, John B. Gordon, N. B. Forrest, F. C. Barlow, David B. Birney (p. 78); McClelland was not dismissed, but simply relieved of his command and returned to his home in Illinois for further mischief (p. 136); General Stephen D. Lee, not General Pemberton, commanded at Chickasaw Bluffs and deserved and obtained the credit for Sherman's repulse (p. 164); Johnston was in Tennessee and Mississippi, in the fall of 1862, ostensibly directing the operations of Bragg and Pemberton, but, in fact, exercising no real command (p. 219); Jackson's failures in the Seven Days' battles are not sufficiently emphasized (p. 223); it is rather an exaggeration to characterize Crocker and the politicians Logan and Blair as "three of the best generals who ever came

from civil life"—the evidence is wanting (p. 261); Rosecrans did not order "an immediate general retreat" at Chickamauga, but sent Thomas orders of a more or less discretionary nature (p. 280); Bragg did not mass "every available gun and man" to meet Sherman's attack against his right on Missionary Ridge, in fact his right was at no time in danger and handled Sherman without reinforcements. Three brigades were sent from the right to assist the hard-pressed left and centre. There was a rout at the centre only, and the retreat was skillfully covered by the "fighting" right led by Hardee and Cleburne. It is not correct to say that "thousands of prisoners were taken; and most of the others were scattered in flight". The break at the centre took with it the left of the line, but the right stood fast. Bragg's "missing" for Lookout Mountain and the assault on Missionary Ridge numbered approximately 4100, as given by Livermore (p. 285). Too much emphasis is placed on the effect of Banks's ill-advised campaign in Louisiana on Sherman's proposed operations against Mobile. Cold Harbor could hardly be called "the last pitched battle on Virginia soil", as the battle of the Crater followed in July, and Early and Sheridan in the Valley of Virginia fought two sizeable battles—at Cedar Creek and Fisher's Hill—in the fall of 1864 (p. 355); Beauregard's relation to Hood was one of supervision and consultation, not of actual "command" (p. 371); there were not thirteen assaults at Franklin, but only one general assault, with continuous and bitter hand-to-hand fighting at the breastworks until long after dark (p. 377); Hood lost a total of approximately 5000, not 15,000, at Nashville (p. 378); Lee was appointed commander-in-chief on February 6, not February 9 (p. 382). General James H. Wilson's masterly cavalry campaign into Alabama and Georgia in the spring of 1865 is not mentioned. Few campaigns have been as well planned and as well executed. The publications of the Southern Historical Society and the twelve-volume Scribner series of *Campaigns of the Civil War* might well have been mentioned in the Bibliographical Note.

The use of the English military terms: battalions for regiments; rails for railroads; and such terms as ratings, enlistment, and special-constable indicate the English military training of the author.

The book is thoroughly readable and one is carried through it by the easy flowing style. The volume maintains the high standard of appearance and book-making set by the previously issued volumes of the series.

THOMAS ROBSON HAY.

Recent History of the United States. By FREDERIC L. PAXSON, Professor of History in the University of Wisconsin. (Boston and Chicago: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1921. Pp. xii, 603. \$3.75.)

THIS book is not a revision of the author's *New Nation* which appeared some six years ago as volume IV. of the well-known *Riverside*